

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, Eliza Symonds Bell, Carrie Bell, October 20, 1874, with transcript

COPY. Boston to Salem, October 20th, 1874, 11.30 P. M. Dear Papa, Mamma & Carrie,

I am to-night a happy man. Success seems to meet me on every hand. First pupils pour in and I am now writing to Miss Locke to have her come and assist me again.

Secondly the Medical Society has evinced great interest in the ear-experiment. Several physicians express the belief that certain vexed questions concerning the mode in which the vibrations of sound are transmitted the Membr. Tymp. to the inner ear can be settled — and I was requested to repeat the experiment upon a fresh specimen, using an organ pipe as the generator of sound — and affixing the style to various parts of the ear that they designated.

The third point is in respect to Telegraphy. I have taken oath of my intention to become an American Citizen and my Caveat is now in the hands of a solicitor. I expect it will be filed in the secret Archives at Washington.

I received a note from Mr. Hubbard requesting me to take tea with him, as he wished to see me “immediately in connection with my telegraphic scheme.

After my last interview with him he had gone down to Washington and searched the Patent Office to find whether my idea had been taken up by anyone else — and he now offers to provide me with funds for the purpose of experimenting if we go into the scheme as partners.

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I told him of Mr. Sanders similar offer and I said that I thought it would be a matter of importance for us to have co-operation of such a man as he is — and that if Mr. Sanders should be agreeable we might all three take it up together.

You will understand what an encouragement this is to me. To find that the man who is the head of the Telegraphic Systems of the States is willing to become a partner in the development of the scheme gives me greater confidence in my own ideas — and I feel as if I may yet take off some “ Husks ”!!!

Should I be able to make any money out of the idea — we shall have Visible Speech put before the World in a more permanent form than at present. Prof. Monroe apologized to me to-day for not having yet written to you. I shall try to see the President of the Y. M. C. A. to-morrow.

I am hard at work on a lecture to be delivered in the Institute of Technology next Wednesday, subject, “The Education of the Deaf and Dumb”. This is to be a free public lecture and it will be illustrated by an exhibition of the pupils of the Boston School. The intention is to excite an interest in the public mind, and having got a large audience together by the prospect of hearing Deaf-Mutes talk — call for subscriptions in aid of the new Association formed last June. The money to be devoted to the immediate opening of an evening school for adults.

Yours affectionately, (Signed) A. G. BELL.